recognised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the case of the developing countries like India.

(d) Various development projects such as cement plants, thermal plants and dams require prior environmental clearance and are appraised therefore, as per the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

Safety of wild animals

†1110. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that wild animals especially elephants continuously get killed by colliding with train on railway lines from Siliguri Junction of North Bengal to Alipur and Dooars;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has cautioned railway department in this regard and advised some concrete steps for safety of wild animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise number of elephant death reported by State Government in train accident in North Bengal are as follows:—

Year	Number of Elephant Deaths
2006	05
2007	03
2008	03
2009	01

(c) and (d) Ministry convened a meeting of the affected States, including West Bengal and the Railway Board officials on September 04, 2009 to discuss the issue. After detailed discussions, Railways have been requested to take actions for the safety of wildlife animals. Important actions suggested to the Railway Board are as follows:—

1. Need to keep atleast 30 m on both sides of the track clear of all the vegetative growth-specially in curves/bends for better visibility.

2. Wherever there are deep trenches on the sides of the track, same must be levelled to allow the elephant to escape.

3. To organize sensitizing programmes for locomotive drivers, cabin crew, guards, etc.

4. To engage elephant trackers equipped with cell phones/walkie-talkies to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

receive information regarding presence of elephant herds around the track length. On receipt of such information, the same to be passed to the Station Master who will communicate the same to the driver/guard.

5. To impose speed limit in highly vulnerable identified sections.

6. Construction of retaining walls and under passes at identified places.

Right over forest land

†1111. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals have got the right over land in all the forest villages after passing of the Forest Rights Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government is going to give lease of land to other communities also who have been living with tribals in forest villages for generations; and

(d) if so, the criteria of giving lease of land of the other communities living in forest villages by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 seeks to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. The term "forest land" is defined in section 2(d) of the Act and includes the land in forest villages also.

(b) Till 31.10.2009 as per the records maintained by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which is the Nodal Ministry for the implementation of the Act, more than 24.90 lakhs claims have been received and more than 5.88 lakhs titles have been distributed.

(c) and (d) Sir, does not arise, because communities get covered under "Other Traditional Forest Dwellers" as pointed out in reply to part (a) and (b) of the question and given in the Statement (*See* below).

Statement

Status of State-wise implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

(As on 31.10.2009)

Sl. No.	State	Total number of claims received	Total number of titles deeds distributed/ready
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3,26,303 (3,19,703 individual and 6,600 community)	1,73,091 distributed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.